

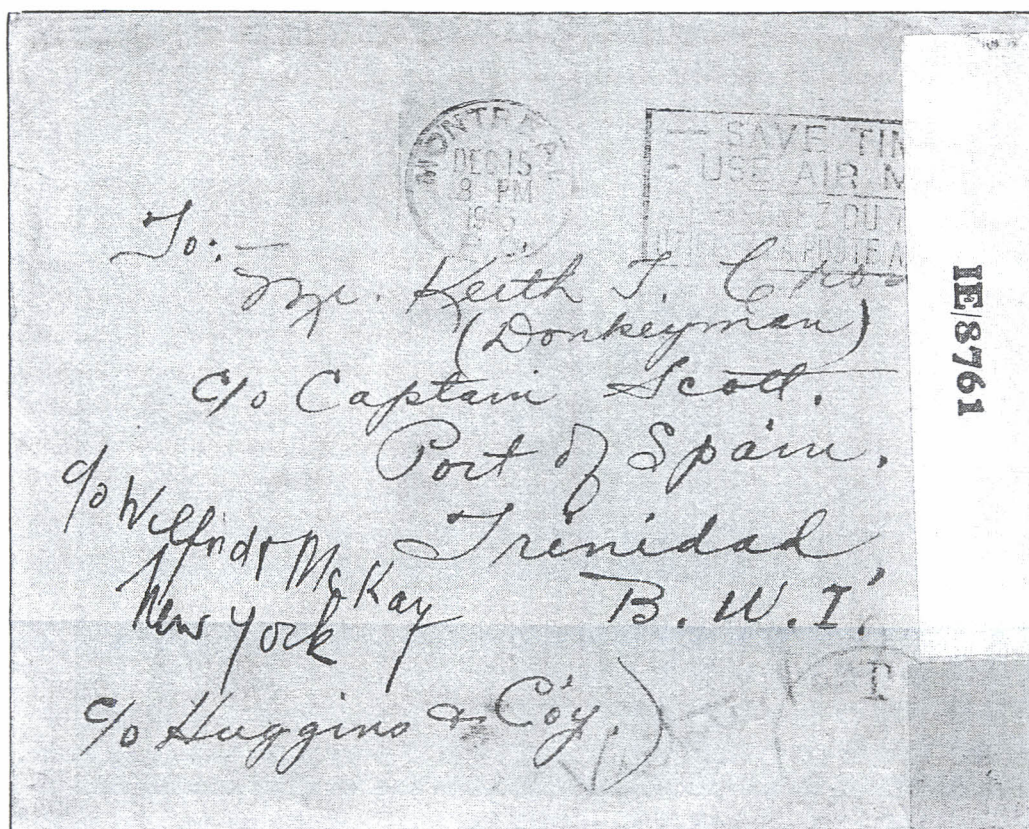
Canadian Military Mail Study Group

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2015

NEWSLETTER NO. 217
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MERCHANT MARINE OUTBOUND COVER: S.S. VICTORIA PARK--By Jon Johnson



This cover was posted unpaid in Montreal on December 15, 1943 to Mr. Keith Crow, Donkeyman [an operator in the ship's engine room.

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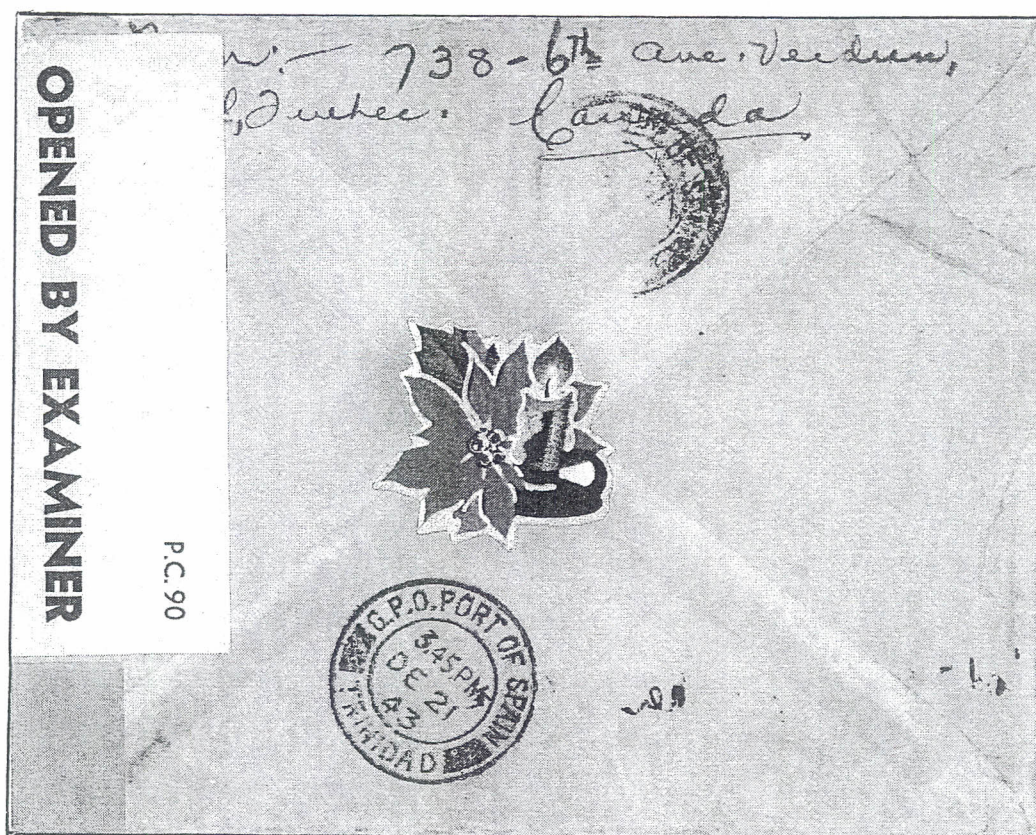
CHAIRMAN: HENK BURGERS, 8 LUCIA COURT, SS#1, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ON LOS 1J0
(hburgers@cogeco.ca)

EDITOR/TREASURER: DEAN MARIO, P.O. BOX 342, STATION MAIN, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3L3
(blueputtees@hotmail.com)

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Ed.]. Upon arrival on December 21, 1943 at Port of Spain, Trinidad, the envelope was readdressed to New York, New York, U.S.A. I assume upon being reposted, the postage due cachet was applied with a very faint "100" written in pencil in the middle. I am guessing the OPENED BY EXAMINER tape was applied before leaving Trinidad. Somewhere on the way [S.S.] "Victoria Park" was written in red.

S.S. Victoria Park was the first of twenty-four cargo ships built by Foundation Maritime in Pictou, Nova Scotia. She was 2,875 gross tons and was completed April 27, 1943. The name came from Victoria Park near Truro, N.S. The Park Shipping Company was owned by the Canadian government and managed the government-owned cargo ships involved in carrying war supplies across the Atlantic. She survived the war and had six subsequent owners before being scrapped in Brazil in 1982.



Two questions: was censor IE/8761 at Port of Spain; and is the postage due cachet Canadian or Trinidadian? [While no expert on Trinidad censor tapes, the code falls in the series from this country. I presume that the censor was located in Port of Spain. The light "T/CENTIMES" appears Canadian and I have seen this type used on international mail. Do members know if this was a U.P.U. device used in Trinidad? Ed.]

A GUIDE TO CANADIAN MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY, 1636-1970: "NEW" VOLUME

LIMITED EDITION

A Guide to Canadian Military Postal History 1636-1970

by Lt. Col. Roland H. Webb; edited by Robert Toombs, Gray Scrimgeour, and Brian Plain.

This spring, the Postal History Society of Canada is publishing Roland Webb's encyclopedic story of Canada's military postal history. Webb was the major collector of and writer about Canadian military postal history in the 1950s and 1960s. He virtually completed the manuscript of this book just before he died in 1970. Since then—despite a promise by the National Postal Museum to publish the book—it has remained unpublished, until now.

The book tells in detail the story of how mail to and from soldiers, sailors, and airmen was delivered, from the earliest days to the end of the nation's first century—when Roland Webb was writing in 1970. During a decade when he served in Ottawa, Webb did research in the Archives there. He discovered much information to support his writing and collecting. His aim was to explain the operation of the Canadian Postal Corps. Many examples are shown to support his discussion. If Webb's own covers were not available, the editors have supplied, or sought from friends, suitable replacement illustrations.

The Introduction to this book (including the Table of Contents and lists of Plates of Postmarks and of Tables) and four sample chapters are available online at:

<http://www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/Library/Books/Webb/index.php>

There is also "The History of the project" at this website. An extensive Index is included in the book and online. A low-resolution electronic file of the book will be archived on the PHSC web site for members of the PHSC.

Book specifications: Casebound, 556 pages, 8½ x 11", 242 illustrations, black and white printing on 60 lb. text paper, weight of book 2 kg.

The cost of this book will be \$79.69 per copy plus shipping costs. To determine the shipping costs we need your postal code or zip code. Please contact Gus Knierim, jknierim@bmts.com with this information.

The printing of this book will be limited to the number of casebound books pre-ordered. Pre-paid orders will be taken until May 30, 2015. Payment can be sent by PayPal.

Please e-mail the completed order form information to Scott Traquair with PayPal payment to <treasurer@postalhistorycanada.net>. Or send a cheque (US or Cdn funds) payable to the "PHSC". If by cheque, please mail the form below and remittance to:

Scott Traquair, Secretary-Treasurer, PHSC
P.O. Box 25061, RPO Hiway, Kitchener, ON N2A 4A5 Canada.



ORDER FORM [please email or mail this information to Secretary-Treasurer, PHSC]

I would like to order _____ copy (copies) of *A Guide to Canadian Military Postal History* for delivery when this book is printed. Attached is my payment of \$_____.

Name _____

Address: _____

(Street Address; City; Prov. or State; and Postal Code)

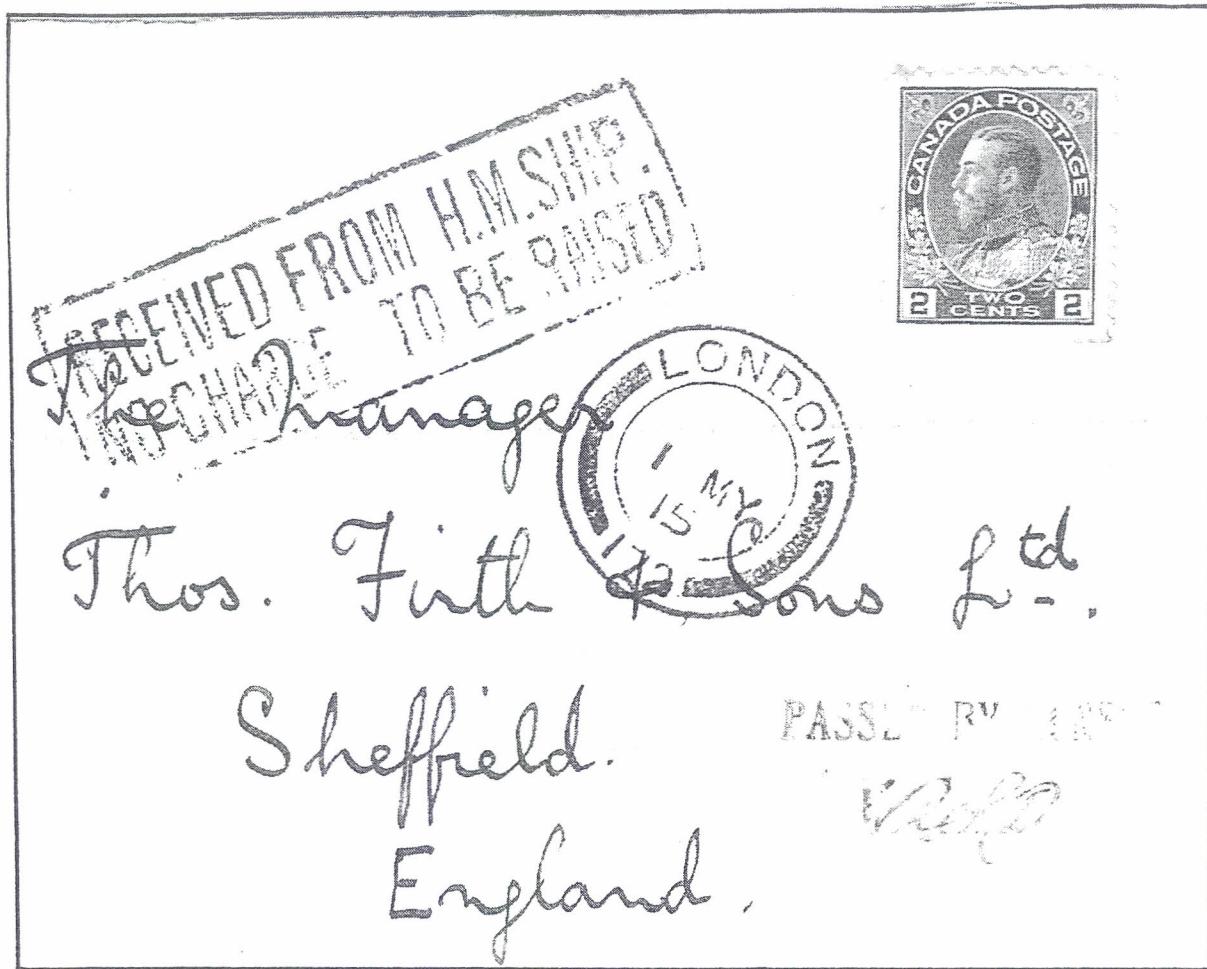
THE FIRST R.C.N. CENSOR HANDSTAMP RE-VISITED--By John Watson

I have been looking through my old copies of the Newsletter and came across the article by Doug Sayles in the January 2002 edition (page 589) [NL#153.Ed] entitled "The First R.C.N. Censor Handstamp?". I have since acquired the attached cover which I think sheds more light on this subject.

I am going to make a few (fairly reasonable) assumptions. Firstly, that the censor marking on my cover was applied on board Niobe as it is identical to the one on Doug's second cover [p. 590, illustrated opposite.Ed.]. My cover has "Niobe" written in pencil on the backflap, but not in the same handwriting as the address. Secondly, that the stamp was applied by the postal authorities in Halifax and not by someone

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[ex. Sayles.Ed.]

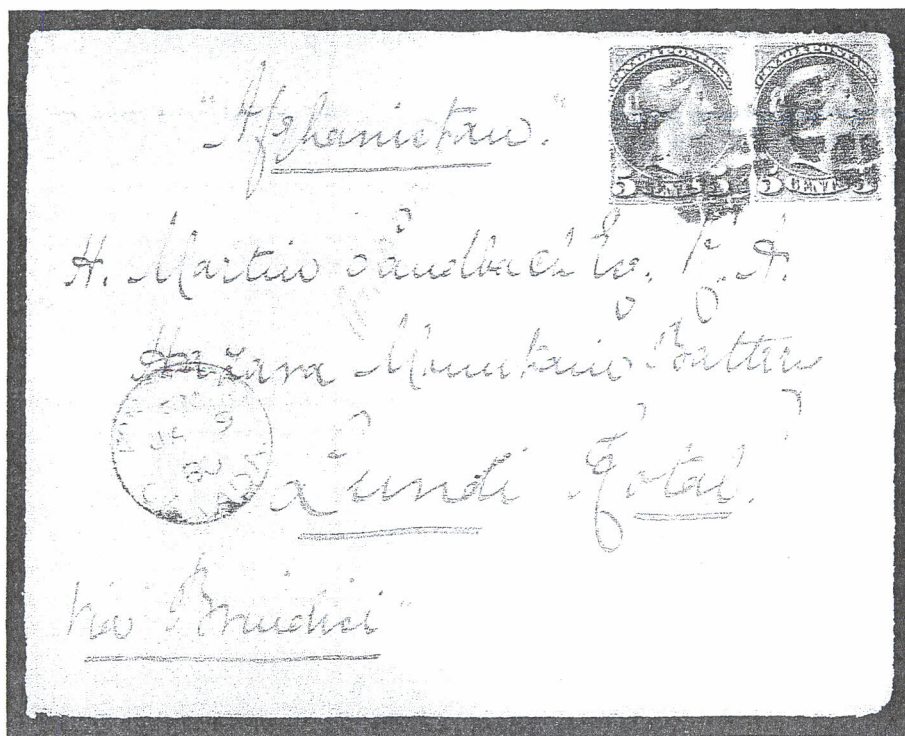
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at a later date trying to enhance the cover. Since the letter obviously got to London, England without incurring any postage due would suggest this to be the case.

Given these provisos it would appear that: a) the letter was posted or put into the mail system before April 15 (as after that date the postage to the United Kingdom was raised to three cents due to war tax) and therefore the date of the use of the censor marking also preceded this date. The receiver for London, dated May 1, would tend to confirm this; and b) the stamp was not cancelled as were the two examples Doug illustrated. Possibly this is because his were both to domestic addresses, and mine is to a foreign address. [What are members' thoughts? Doug previously asked if members had a Navy List for 1915 which might suggest identification of the censor's initials with "A.S.D.". My request for an interlibrary loan was unsuccessful as "no Canadian location could be found" (although there might exist a volume in the National Archives but it no longer accepts interlibrary loans). Incidentally, Lt. William McKinstrey Maitland-Dougall is a very interesting historical figure in Canadian naval history. He was the first and youngest career officer to command a submarine in the Royal Canadian Navy. He was killed-in-action aboard the submarine D3 on March 15, 1918; a victim of "friendly fire" from a French airship (see pp. 85-87, Through a Canadian Periscope: The Story of the Canadian Submarine Service by Julie H. Ferguson).Ed.]

TEN CENT SMALL QUEEN FRANKING TO AFGHANISTAN 1880

Eastern Auctions Ltd., Bathurst, N.B. sold the following cover in its General Sale held on October 17-18, 2014 (ex. Arfken; "November" Collection, Christie's Robson Lowe, Feb. 1994; Lot 296, S.J. Menich, Firby, June 2000). It realized \$6,325 (with the 15% buyer's fee). Contact 1-800-667-8267 or view the company's website at: www.easternauctions.com (.)



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- 1234 ☒ 1880 (January 9) Remarkable "Second Afghan War" cover mailed from Kingston to Captain Martin Sandbach of the (24th) Hazara Mountain Battery (Frontier Force), shortly after British Victory of the Siege of the Sherpur Cantonment held in Kabul, Afghanistan. Franked with pair of 5c dark olive grey shade, Montreal printing perf 12 and tied by cork cancels, perf flaws at top due to placement near edge of envelope, Kingston JA 9 80 dispatch at lower left, endorsed via "Brindisi" to Landi Kotal, in what is now known as the Tribal Areas of Northwest Pakistan before being forwarded by Military personnel to Kabul; London JA 26 80 small red CDS, Brindisi 30 1 CDS and Indian Sea Post Office 5 FEB transit backstamps. A very rare cover paying the 5 cent UPU letter rate plus a 5 cent UPU authorized surtax for delivery of mail to a remote location; one of only four covers paying 10 cent to India and Afghanistan between August 1878 and October 1880. A highly desirable Afghan War cover of which very few exist. An absolute postal history showpiece, VF (Unitrade 38) Est. 5,000.00+

Literature: "A Second Afghan War Cover" by George Arfken, Maple Leaf journal, Volume 23, Number 3, June 1993, Whole Number 243, pages 75-77.

P.O.W. POSTCARD FROM AUSTRALIA TO CANADA RE-VISITED--By David Collyer

David has done some yeoman work with a follow-up to Robert Henderson's previous article related to a P.O.W. picture card from Melbourne to Canada (NL#214, May 2014, pp. 1355-1356).

David's research included information from Phil Collas' The Postal History of Internees and Prisoners of War in Australia During World War II (Melbourne: The R.P.S. of Victoria, 1982) but surprisingly found little in the way of specific details about the photo-aspect of the card in question (see Collas, p.59). However, contacting Andrew Brockett, a Forces mail collector and a member of the research team at the Philas Library, some information was deemed available from the Bulletin of the Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club (ACCC), Article No. 2310 (October, 1994, pp. 221-227).

Gustave Pohlig, of Waterloo, New York, a well-known name to many collectors, was a member of the Afrika Korps and was captured by the Australians. He spent his captivity in Australia, according to Collas, and was interned at the Tatura Camp. He was later repatriated to Germany after the war and later migrated with his wife to New York where he taught school. Pohlig's article "The Postcards Issued by the Army for P.O.W. and Internees in Australia During W.W.II" notes that the card is Pohlig Type A.

Neither Andrew, or David, have seen an Australian-produced P.O.W. card with a picture on the reverse. The back is usually reserved for the sender's message and address particulars. Andrew suspects that the card was sent from Camp 13 at Murchison in Victoria, Australia. This, he notes, would be consistent with the Melbourne postmark and Victorian diamond censor handstamp. The front of the card appears to be Sybrand Bakker's Subtype PW PC 4.2. Andrew claimed that the transmission of photographs by P.O.W.'s was prohibited. David checked the National Security Prisoners of War Regulations 35 which states that there is no limit on the number of letters, postcards, or unmounted photos of a domestic nature a prisoner may receive. However, prisoners could not receive picture postcards, photographs etc. of a suspicious or objectionable nature.

On a separate matter related to P.O.W.'s, David recently acquired a copy

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of The War Behind the Wire: The Life, Death and Glory of British Prisoners of War, 1914-1918 by John Lewis-Stempel (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2014) and available as an e-book. It accounts for Commonwealth soldiers captured by the Germans on the Western Front and David notes that there are references to Canadians in the index but they are throughout the text. [Thanks David for all of your efforts. It seems that Bob's card is something special and not often seen. Canadian P.O.W. specialists will know that P.O.W. photographs on postcards are also quite unusual (but perhaps were more common during the Great War than those of the Second World War?).Ed.]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: GREAT WAR CANADIAN CENSORSHIP OF U.S. MAIL

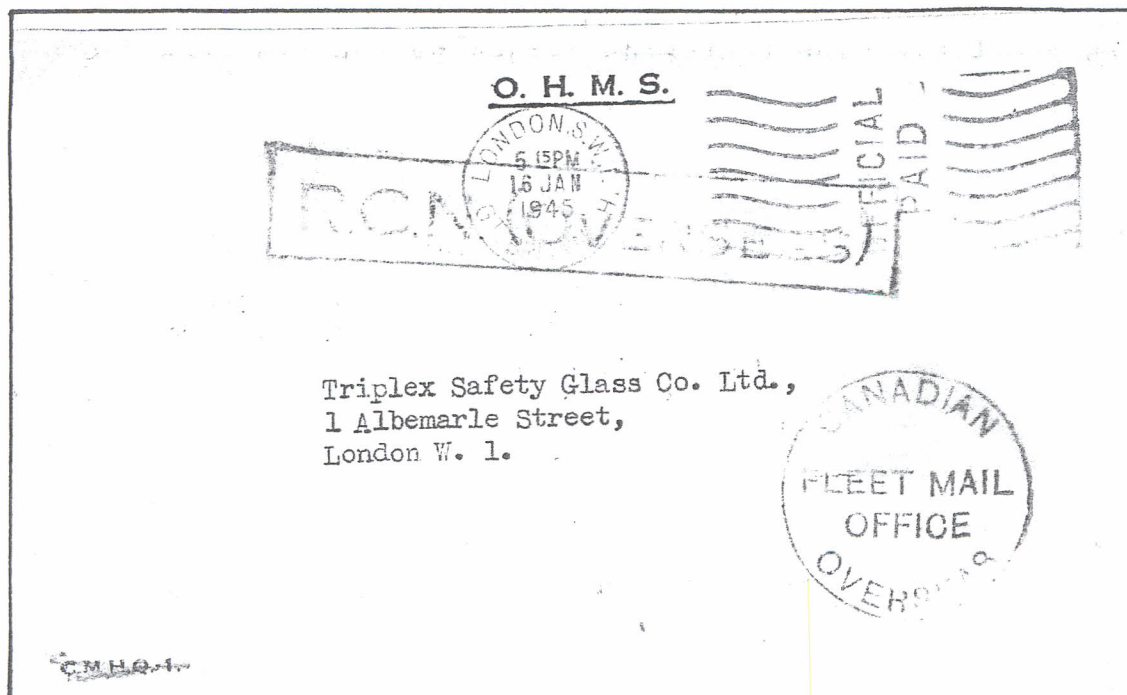
Graham Mark, Hon. Librarian and Treasurer of the Civil Censorship Study Group, is working on an update of Alan Steinhart's Civil Censorship in Canada During World War I (1986). He, along with member Jim Felton, have been working on compiling updates over the years. He is seeking the following data:

--place of posting; date; postcard or cover; label type (serif or sans-serif); censor number (pencil or handstamp); size in mm and colour of a **CENSORED** handstamp if applied; additional information (backstamps, registered, other markings etc.).

He is seeking information on 1916 and 1917 examples.

Contact Graham at: Oast House West, Hauling Way, Wiveliscombe, Somerset TA4 2PP, United Kingdom or email: gmarkb34@btinternet.com

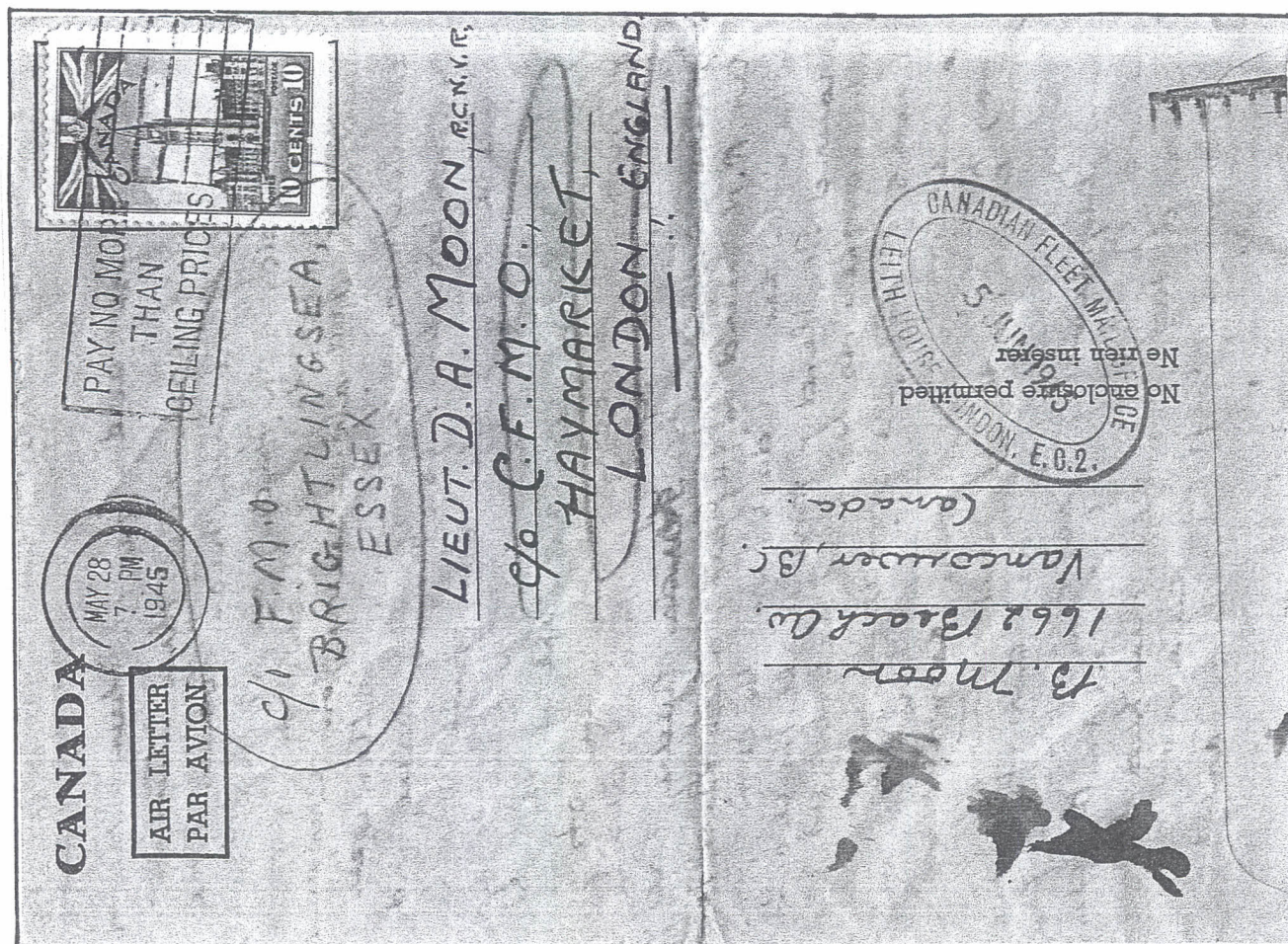
CANADIAN FLEET MAIL OFFICE, LEITH HOUSE, LONDON--By Lee Dowsley



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The preceding O.H.M.S. label from a parcel or envelope [possibly a front? Ed.] shows an unlisted red circular "CANADIAN/FLEET MAIL/OFFICE/OVER-SEAS" handstamp used by the Royal Canadian Navy in London, England on January 16, 1945. It was probably posted at the R.C.N. Fleet Mail Office at Leith House, London as indicated by the London S.W.1 machine cancel for local delivery.

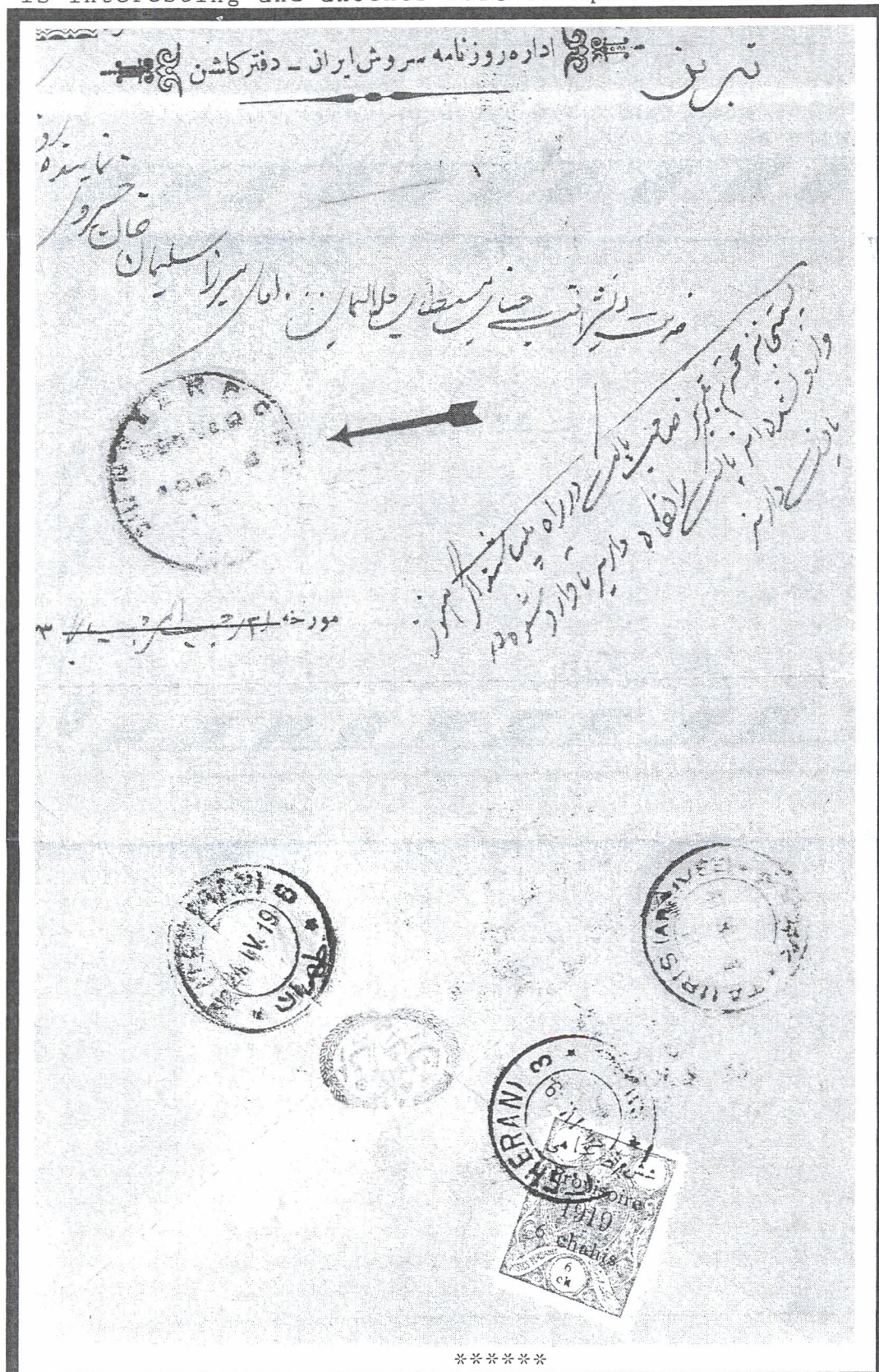


The above Air Letter, written at Vancouver, B.C. on May 27, 1945 and cancelled in Vancouver a day later with a Pitney Bowes Model "G" machine with a Die 6 blackout dater hub and slogan "PAY NO MORE/THAN/CEILING PRICES", was addressed to the Canadian Fleet Mail Office, Haymarket, London, England.

It was sent to Leith House on Gresham Street, the Royal Canadian Navy F.M.O. in London. The unlisted blue oval "CANADIAN FLEET MAIL OFFICE/LEITH HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.2./5 JUN 1945" handstamp was used as a receiver. It was redirected to F.M.O. Brightlingsea, Essex, England; a Royal Navy Fleet Mail Office.

DUNSTERFORCE 1919--By Henk Burgers

Henk sent in the following further to John Watson's Dunsterforce cover in NL#215 (August 2014), pp. 1357-1358. While not Canadian-related, it is interesting and another rare example from this Theatre.

**Dunsterforce
Censor**

Cover from
Teheran
bearing
Persian
provisional
stamp
cancelled 24
April 1919 and
censored by
Dunsterforce

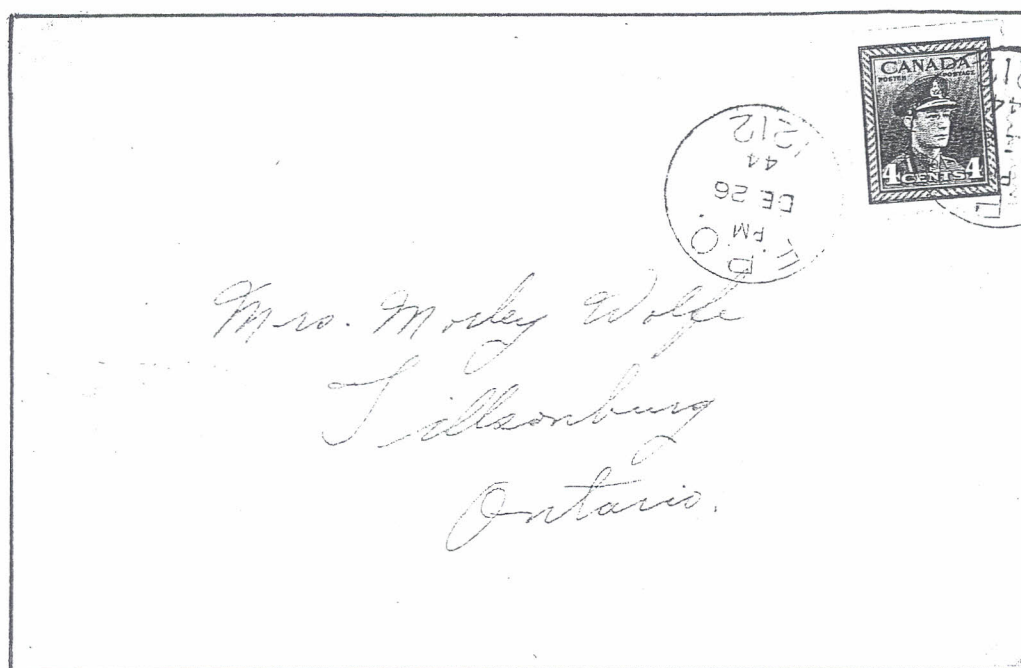
All civilian
mail in North
Persia was
censored by
Dunsterforce.
This example
appears to have
been used after
the force itself
was disbanded
and the Allies
had occupied
the region
following the
Turkish
Armistice.

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F.P.O. 1212: "ESKIMO FORCE"--By Colin Pomfret

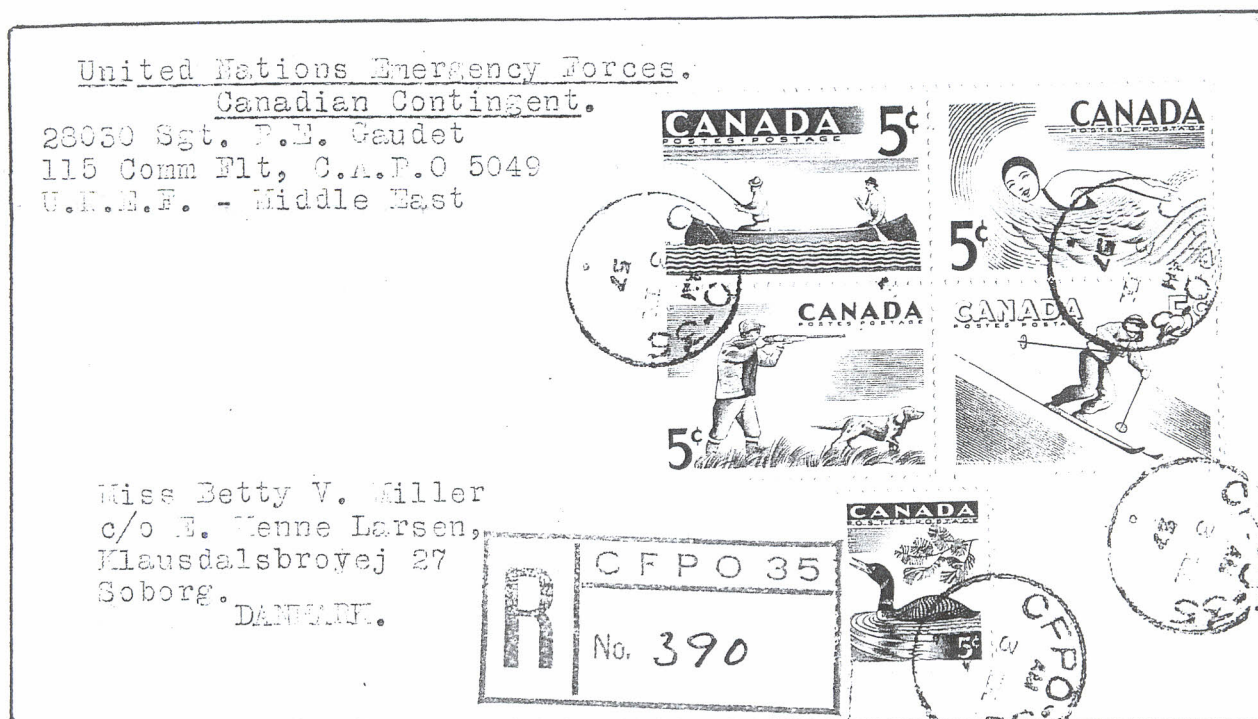
Colin sent along two covers from this unusual Canadian Army Exercise from October 24, 1944 to March 21, 1945 near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

[The dates above are from Bailey & Toop's The Canadian Military Posts: Between the Wars and World War Two, 1920-1946 (Ed. E.B. Proud, 1985). Dates of usage for this F.P.O. dater by these authors, and those of others in subsequent volumes are different. However, given examples like Colin's which precede some published dates of usage, I believe that the above dates are more accurate.Ed.]



C.F.P.O. 35 (UNEF I), ABU SUWEIR, EGYPT--By John Watson

A registered cover from Egypt to Denmark is illustrated below. John notes that the cover travelled through C.F.P.O. 34 (Naples, Italy) on September 7 back to Canada. A Montreal, Canada/Registered postmark dated September 19 (inverted) also appears on the cover's reverse [all backstamps are faint to reproduce here.Ed.]



SECOND WORLD WAR ELECTION AIR LETTER--By Colin Pomfret

[Colin sent in the following blue Canadian Air Letter mailed from Hes-peler, Ontario dated May 15, 1945. It was addressed to a Wren in the United Kingdom.]

I have no information if either candidate was successful in their respective federal and provincial ridings. Members will know that the relationship between politics and the Canadian Armed Forces is a lasting one. In the mid-nineteenth century members of Canada's militia often served in Canada's political circles. Perhaps the most politically-active period of armed forces personnel was after both the First and Second World Wars. In contemporary times it is unusual for ex-military men and women to hold roles in related cabinet portfolios.

In the federal and provincial elections noted, the Liberals under W.L. Mackenzie King formed government federally and the Conservatives, led by George Drew, took Ontario. For more on George Drew, a member of the Militia and the Canadian Field Artillery, C.E.F. in the Great War, see J.C. Campbell's "G.A. Drew in the Great War" (NL#140, May 1999, p.411). Ed.]

[Cont'd.]

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(Reduced
to 80%)

Dear Member of the Armed Forces:

As you are no doubt aware, there are two elections being held in June to elect members for both the Provincial Legislature and the Dominion Government. Recently, with the welfare of my comrades overseas foremost in my mind, I accepted the nomination as Liberal Candidate for South Waterloo in the Ontario Election.

My feelings are that one who has served in the armed forces overseas is best qualified to serve during the remainder of the war and in the period of your rehabilitation which follows.

For those from South Waterloo who do not know me, previous to the outbreak of war, I had served for sixteen years in the 1st Battalion, H.L.I., N.P.A.M.

When the Highland Light Infantry of Canada was mobilized in June, 1940, I immediately signed up for active service, went overseas as a Company Commander in 1941 and was greatly honored by being given command of the finest battalion overseas in 1942. In 1944 I was, unfortunately, invalided back home.

We left Canada and the comforts of our homes to fight for the freedom of our loved ones. If elected I promise you that I will do everything in my power to see that you are justly treated and get all the breaks you rightly deserve upon your return.

Sincerely,

VOTE AND WORK TO ELECT "BOB" SHANTZ,
THE SOLDIERS' CANDIDATE

R. F. (BOB) SHANTZ, LT.-COL.

PREVIOUSLY O.C. 1ST BN. (A), H.L.I. OF CANADA, OVERSEAS
PRESENTLY O.C. 2ND BN. (R), H.L.I. OF CANADA, GALT, ONTARIO

I am the Liberal Candidate in the Dominion Constituency of South Waterloo, in which you are registered as a voter.

I ask you to vote for me because:

I am pledged to support the Liberal Party, which is the only party with tried, experienced leadership, with a well-organized programme conceived in your interests as well as the interests of the country at large.

The leader I am pledged to support is one of the great statesmen of our day, whose grasp of the problems of government is unequalled in Canada.

The programme of this party has been such that in war and in domestic matters it has been the envy of the other democracies who have copied it in many respects. Thanks to this programme you will come home to a country where inflation has not run rampant, to a country where your rehabilitation is the first interest, and where something more than talk has been done about it. Here you will find rehabilitation in action.

Because my training and experience, both civil and military, have fitted me particularly to advance your interests and welfare, both as soldiers now and civilians later.

And because I am ready, willing and able to represent you efficiently, understandingly and loyally.



P. J. (PAT) FLYNN, R.C.A.

Dear Study Group Members: Apologies for the lateness of this issue. Henk and I hope that your year is going well so far. Lots of military treasures herein and thanks again to our contributors. I hope that members were successful with the Ged Taylor sale through the CPSGB. Until next time, good collecting!
